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07/10/2012 Minutes

VISION 2020 STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES OF JULY 10, 2012 MEETING

In attendance: Paul Bayer, Joey Glushko, Mary Harrison, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Josh Lobel, Brucie Moulton. Absent: Kathleen Bodie, Adam Chapdelaine, Dan Dunn, Andrew Fischer, Bruce Fitzsimmons, William Hayner, John Leone, Josh Lobel, Cheryl Miller, Angela Olszewski, William Shea.

The minutes of the previous meeting were not available, apparently due to a computer glitch, and will have to be reviewed at the next meeting.

Census Survey: Josh will try to get the result ready to be put on the website by July 16, including a summary of the comments. A few paper copies will be made for display at Town Day. Mary will start drafting an article for the Arlington Advocate on the survey results. The entire set of comments will be put on line for a limited time.

Task groups:

Gordon Jamieson is to replace William Shea as Fiscal Resources representative. Inactive task groups need to be revitalized: Communication; Community and Citizen Service; Education; Governance. Also, Town leaders who are ex-officio members hardly ever attend or send a representative. Joey will talk to the Town Manager about this.

Task group goals were adopted in the 1990s – are they flexible enough for the future? Task groups should review their goals during the fall. Any changes would have to be approved by Town Meeting.

Diversity: No news yet but ideas are under development.

Fiscal Resources: The vote on whether to uphold the leaf blower ban will cost about \$30,000, to be taken from the reserve fund.

There is a controversy about paying for the Minuteman School, which serves 16 communities and gets its largest group of students from Arlington: Belmont doesn't want to pay because the school allegedly failed to meet certain requirements.

Environment – Reservoir: No new thefts from the habitat garden were reported at the June 14 meeting, but today Jane saw eight holes. A work day was held on June 17.

Env. – Sustainable Arlington: The Solarize Mass program is proceeding. SolarFlair has been selected as the vendor for Arlington; it held a well attended presentation last night. About 250 people have already signed up as being interested in the program.

Env. – Spy Pond: Planting of suitable seeds in the areas cleared of phragmites has begun.

Names of people who signed up for task groups on the census survey were sent to the chairs in the spring, but it is not known whether all reached out to these people.

Communication: Town policy now forbids use of Town computers for social media like Facebook. The Communications task group should investigate whether using social media would help the master planning process. (The first public meeting on the master plan will be held Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall.) ACMI and the Arlington Shopper could be used to post notices of meetings. Other possible means were mentioned – e.g. the Neighborhood Newsletter (in the Pleasant Street area), which is struggling, and the e-mail list which has replaced the Kelwyn Manor newsletter.

Town Day will be Saturday, September 15. Task groups should start preparing material and line up coverage for the Vision 2020 table, as much as possible before our August 8 meeting.

We should also start thinking about the census survey for next year.